

ICS 83-4007
25 April 1983

att: ER 83-021912

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director, CIA

VIA: Director, Intelligence Community Staff
Deputy Director, Intelligence Community Staff

Ex 50 4 MAY 1983

29 APR 1983

FROM:
Chairman, Intelligence Information
Handling Committee

SUBJECT: Community Information Retrieval System (CIRS)

1. I appreciated very much the positive support which you gave to the IHC's CIRS plan in your memo of 29 March to the DDCI.

2. The IHC recently completed a review of IHC activities during its annual I made copies of your memo available to the IHC membership and asked them to consider the issue which you raised in paragraph three of your memo concerning the management of the CIRS plan implementation. The members gave the matter considerable attention and reviewed all of the considerations previously addressed by the Committee in adopting the initial plan. Based upon these discussions, the consensus of the Committee is the following:

- o The CIRS project requires continuity in the supervision of its further development and implementation. Although the plan calls for a phased implementation, there are many tasks which must be pursued concurrently by different agencies in order to prepare for each phase of the project. For these reasons, a rotating executive agency for the entire project would be inappropriate.
- o The overall coordination of the implementation of the CIRS plan must be accomplished from a Community perspective. With so many different agencies and components involved, there are potential conflicting interests which must be adjusted between the participants. The IC Staff is the only natural arena within which the problems can be addressed on a "neutral ground." Therefore, the IHC staff must provide the CIRS Project Coordinator.
- o It is recognized that the resources of the IHC staff will be severely taxed by undertaking this responsibility. The Committee members were concerned that if the IHC staff takes on other significant responsibilities in important areas such as computer security, telecommunications, and graphics, there could be a shortfall in the amount of resources required to coordinate the CIRS effort. If additional resources are required, the IHC

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Staff should be augmented by the assignment of additional personnel on a permanent or temporary basis and by providing additional external contracting support.

3. The management problem involved in implementing the CIRS plan is considerably different from that involved in managing the development of a computer or communications system, such as SAFE or COINS. The plan contemplates the assignment of multiple executive agent responsibility for the development of the computer and communications systems required to support the plan. Provided the components all carry out their individual executive agent responsibilities, the central management problem is reduced to reviewing the performance of the various executive agents, maintaining an appropriate scheduling of tasks, ensuring the availability of resources in accordance with the implementation schedule, and supporting and coordinating the development and implementation of the required interface specifications and standards. These tasks, encompassing the areas of Community standards, Community coordination, and NFIP resource allocation, fall uniquely within the areas of responsibility of the IC Staff and IHC.

4. Given the size and complexity of the undertaking and the limitations of the IHC staff, I recognize that we cannot succeed without the continued endorsement and support of Community leaders and continued cooperation of Community components at all levels, especially through the provision of competent personnel to man the various working groups required to carry out the plan. The degree of such cooperation and support which the Committee has received in the past, exemplified by your memorandum to the DDCI, gives rise to optimism on my part that the plan can be carried out. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these and other related matters with you in more detail. We certainly cannot afford to overlook any possible ways to improve the coordination and support which will be required for the further development and implementation of the plan.

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